

Shirenewton Parish Magazine



**December 2023/
January 2024**

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LEADING OUR CHURCHES INTO GROWTH – NEW INITIATIVES FOR THE MINISTRY AREA

I recently attended a nationwide Christian conference, Leading your Church into Growth. It was an inspiring event, which called on us to challenge the status quo, and change our mindset into one in which we believe, with God's help, we CAN grow. We were all reminded that:

God wants His church to grow
We are God's hands, He works through us
Nothing will change unless we are willing to make some changes ourselves.

The congregations in all our churches have fallen – overall by about one third since 2015. Many people today think that church is outdated, stuffy, irrelevant and not something they want to come to. Yet so many people are seeking some spiritual enrichment in their lives – witness the growth of mindfulness and wellness groups of different kinds. Many people still like to come to church services at Christmas, but don't feel we offer them anything at other times of the year.

We Christians believe that people can find the inner peace they are seeking through Jesus Christ. We need to reach out to more people and offer some new styles of service and events which are joyful, family-friendly and relevant to people's lives and concerns today.

So in the New Year we are planning, alongside our existing services, to hold some new style services in some of our villages. We will be trialling a more family friendly Communion Service in Devauden, and less formal café-style services in Mathern and Shirenewton. We will also be holding some outdoor walking events for those who don't want to come to church at all. Please look out for details of the dates and times and venues early in the New Year – all services will be advertised on our Ministry Area website at

www.severnwyema.co.uk

Please also let us have your thoughts, and any ideas you have. It would be especially helpful to hear from people who don't usually come to church. Please make your views known through me or one of the priests, or one of your church wardens, or your representatives on the Ministry Area Council.



Rev Philip Averay, Ministry Area Leader
Tel: 01291 620980 Email: revphilipaveray@gmail.com

DATES FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT SHIRENEWTON CHURCH

At the recent meeting of the Church Council, the following programme of church services and themed events over the Christmas period was finalised. Please note that Carols around the Christmas Tree with Chepstow Town Band provisionally planned for 17th December is now confirmed as taking place on the 10th December. Elsewhere in this magazine you will see a wider list of Christmas services across the 10 local churches that comprise the Ministry Area of Severn –Wye, which includes Shirenewton parish.

WE WISH YOU ALL A BLESSED, PEACEFUL AND JOYOUS CHRISTMAS

- Sunday 3rd Dec 10.00 Morning Prayer
11.00 Advent Fair and refreshments in the Church Rooms. All proceeds to Julie Noble of Latin Link (an Anglican missionary organisation working predominantly with women prisoners and their families in Bolivia)
- Sunday 10th Dec 10.00 Service of Holy Communion
6.30 Carols around the village Christmas Tree led by Chepstow Town Band. Donations to Medecins sans Frontieres
- Sunday 17th Dec 10.00 Parish Carol Service
- Sunday 24th Dec - Christmas Eve – No morning service in church
4.00 – 5.00 Family Walking Nativity. Come and meet the Wise Men, the Angels and the Shepherds, assemble and light your Christingle candle and welcome Jesus the Light of the World in the stable with the donkeys looking on. Donations for the Childrens Society
11.30 Midnight Mass
- Monday 25th Dec - Christmas Day
10.00 Christmas morning family service
- Sunday 31st Dec – 5th Sunday in the month Group services at:
10.00 Holy Communion – St. Christopher's
10.00 Sung Eucharist – St Arvans

Congratulations to our 200 Club winners in November:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Cheryl Lloyd | 2. Glynis MacDonald |
| 3. Elizabeth Moore | 4. Otilie Holden |

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HABAKKUK'S MESSAGE FOR MODERN LIFE

Habakkuk's Old Testament prophecy was directed to a world that must have seemed on the edge of disaster. Habakkuk's prayer for people in the face of destruction still stands today as a remarkable witness of true faith and undying hope. It is a remarkable part of the Bible, as it contains an extended dialogue between Habakkuk and God. The prophet started this conversation based on his distress about God's "inaction" in the world. He wanted to see God do something more, particularly in the area of justice for those committing evil acts. The book of Habakkuk pictures a frustrated prophet, much like Jonah.

What was the context?

As the prophet Habakkuk stood in Jerusalem and looked at the state of his nation, Judah, he must have been very upset. So much evil thrived, completely in the open, but God remained strangely silent. Where was He? How long would He allow this mess to continue? Not long, according to the Lord. Another nation, the Babylonians, would come and execute justice on the Lord's behalf. The wicked in Judah were soon to be punished.

The book of Habakkuk offers us a picture of a proud self-centred people being humbled, while the righteous live by faith in God (2:4). It reminds us that while God may seem silent and uninvolved in our world, He always has a plan to deal with evil and always works out justice . . . eventually. This should encourage those of you with faith to wait on God, expecting that He will indeed work out all things for our good (read [Romans 8:28](#)).

In this dialogue between Habakkuk and God, the prophet argues with God over God's ways, which appear to Habakkuk unfathomable, if not unjust. Habakkuk was distressed that even though wickedness, strife, and oppression were rampant in Judah God seemingly did nothing. When told that the Lord was preparing to do something about it through the "ruthless" Babylonians invading Judah, his perplexity only intensified: How could God, who is "too pure to look on evil," appoint such a nation "to execute judgment" on a people "more righteous than themselves"? God makes it clear, however, that eventually the corrupt destroyer will itself be destroyed. In the end, Habakkuk learns to rest in God's sovereign decisions and await his working in a spirit of worship. He learns to wait patiently in faith for God's plan to work out.

How is Habakkuk like us?

Habakkuk asked God the kind of question that so many of us have pondered, "Why do we have to see evil and stare trouble in the face day after day?". We have all seen the evidence of evil in our world. We've all been touched by it in some way. And we bear scars at various stages of healing when it has tangibly affected us. We can sometime feel we are trapped in a dark place, sometimes of our own making, being downtrodden by our poor choices and our fallen world. However, the book of Habakkuk reminds us that no place is too dark and no wall too thick for God's grace to penetrate in a powerful and life-affirming way.

We are called to place our trust in Jesus

Trust the Lord, no matter what. That is Habakkuk's message for people around the world today. Habakkuk is unique in that the prophet is not speaking to the people but rather to God himself. He is puzzled because God is planning to use Babylon to punish his own people, Judah, even though Babylon is far more wicked place than Judah. The three chapters of this short book show Habakkuk wrestling with God in anguish, but ultimately learning to trust in God no matter what. Throughout history, this has been the test to which God's has called people. Whatever political circumstances, economic hardships or religious persecution they are experiencing, will they trust him? Will they rely on God for all that they need to nourish and sustain them (read [Matt. 25:34](#); [1 Cor. 3:21-23](#)).

What is Habakkuk telling us to believe?

Have Confidence in God. This is the key theme of Habakkuk. God can be trusted. This has been proven to us by Christ. Jesus gave up everything to die for us on the cross so that we can be forgiven. God is the maker of heaven and earth and the upholder and sustainer of all things. He is sovereign, wise, and shows great mercy. Through faith we too can be happy no matter our circumstances. It can affect our mental health if we **let circumstances dictate whether we are joyful or not**. Habakkuk's confident declaration and prayer of encouragement despite all that was due to happen is a beautiful demonstration of his faith in God. He knew this world was not his ultimate home. He trusted the love and faithfulness of his Saviour.

God will bring all evil to account. Judah had become deeply wicked, and God brought Babylon to punish them. Yet Babylon too was desperately wicked—in Habakkuk's eyes, even more wicked than Judah. Therefore, God would also bring Babylon to account, as well as all other nations of the earth. God's justice will ultimately be universally distributed in perfect fairness. No one will get what is not deserved.

The Message of the Book of Habakkuk for Today

It is often difficult to see the hand of God in our fallen world. We can become quickly dismayed, puzzled and doubtful of his existence, his faithfulness and desire to care in light of what we see going on around us and in the news – wars, environmental catastrophe, political corruption, rejection of the gospel, hostility towards Christians, hunger, economic instability, and many other things.

Trust in God is based not on what we see but on who God is—the God who will “in wrath remember mercy” ([Hab. 3:2](#)). God's character is supremely revealed in Jesus Christ, in whom divine wrath and divine mercy meet. This is why Christ was born into our world at Christmas and the reason for His saving work on the cross, God calls everyone to place their trust in him, for “the righteous shall live by his faith”.

Things We Can Learn from Habakkuk:

1. God's ways are not our ways yet He can be trusted.
2. Even when things seem chaotic God is still in control.
3. God wants what's best for us even when it's hard.
4. Understanding how God works is not our job, trusting Him is.
5. Lasting peace and joy don't come from circumstances but from God. My timing is just that my timing, but God's timing is perfect.

Paul Morcombe, Shirenewton



SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Urgent Message from Shirenewton Community Council

Due to a change in circumstances, we are re-advertising for the position of Clerk of the Community Council.

The Clerk is employed for a total of 15 hours per week. There is a requirement to attend a Monday evening meeting every month and to ensure the local noticeboards alert the public to the agenda of this monthly meeting. Otherwise, a reasonable amount of the work per week can be undertaken at home on a flexible basis.

The information pack and application form can be downloaded from our website.

For more information about the Community Council please see our website: - www.shirenewtoncc.org.uk

Cllr Philip Butterworth (Chair)

Email: - philip.b@shirenewtoncc.org.uk or Tel : 01291 641704



SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Extracts from the minutes of the monthly meetings held in October and November 2023.

Planning application considered in October

DM/2023/01105 - Bushes Farm Chapel Road Earlswood

Proposed amendments to previous planning permission DC/2018/00128 to incorporate minor amendments to approved alterations including a side and rear extension, amended bat provision and alteration of ground levels.

Following discussion by the council - SCC does not object to this application but if MCC is minded to grant consent then SCC request the following conditions :

- 1 The like conditions as were set out in the DC/2018/00128 consent, and in particular that the development be carried out strictly in accordance with the submitted plans and specifications
- 2 That work be limited to normal working hours on weekdays and none on Sundays or public holidays.

Planning applications considered in November

DM/2023/01198 – Coombe Farm Cwm Mill

Erection of 2 No. additional poultry units and associated infrastructure on established poultry farm.

Following a discussion by the council it was agreed unanimously that the application be objected on the grounds that Councillors concerns expressed in their response to the pre planning application have not been fully met. The Councillors therefore would like to seek reassurance by ongoing monitoring that ground and water sources are not being contaminated, and that a reduction in the escape of toxic chemicals and gases (particularly phosphates nitrates and ammonia) and noise and odour from the site as a whole will be addressed. Compliance with the Manure and Dirty Water Management Plan should be made a condition were MCC minded to grant consent together with ongoing

regular monitoring of the stream water and aquifers, and of air pollution, and a condition limiting lorry movements to the working week both for construction works and operation of the facility thereafter.

DM/2023/01423 = The Hollies Usk Road Earlswood NP16 6RZ

Modification of condition 2 relating to planning DM/2021/01976
The councillors unanimously objected to the application on the grounds that there is still insufficient detail of materials and finishes, and the uncharacteristic appearance given the building's prominence in the Mounton valley. The recommendations of the latest bat report should be included as a condition.

DM/2023/01434 – Gables Old School Hill Mynyddbach

Installation of Air Source Heat Pump within 3m of boundary

The council voted to unanimously object for want of an independent assessment of sound levels and consideration of alternative siting to minimise disturbance to nearby properties or by the installation of exterior sound absorbing panels. SCC requests that it is updated when the applicant submits further details, for further consideration.

Footpath from war memorial up to the Church

We have received correspondence from the Church council that the footpath is covered in moss and requires cleaning prior to Remembrance Sunday. It was noted by the council that ownership of the footpath is unknown and that the clerk of the community council would contact Monmouthshire highways department to try and establish ownership.

In the meantime, Llanvair Landscapes have been contacted and will inspect the footpath and report back with remedial works required and associated quotation.

Update on Recreation Ground Play area New Equipment

Councillor Ian Martin reported that the Trampoline is waterlogged after heavy rainfall, causing children to get wet on using the equipment.

The Clerk will report this to Monmouthshire County Council who installed the equipment and report back at the next meeting.

Church Clock Maintenance

It was discussed that after the clock was serviced on the 1st November, it had stopped working again by the 2nd November and the engineers reported that the pulley needs replacing and the bushes may need cleaning in order to resolve the problem. The Church council and community council are awaiting a quotation from Gillett & Johnston Ltd and this will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT October 2023

County Council on the 21st of September 2023

The County Council meeting considered the annual report from Governance and Audit, Standards Committee and a report on the Joint Scrutiny arrangements for Corporate Joint Committees. There were also various motions and questions to council. The motion submitted by County Councillor Strong was approved, the motions by County Councillor Neill and County Councillor Taylor were not approved and the motion by County Councillor Richard John was amended to simply approve what Cabinet had already approved in relation to Tudor Street Day Centre in Abergavenny. The link to the County Council meeting, where it can be watched, can be found here:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=143&MIId=5700>

Place Committee on the 28th of September 2023

The Place Committee considered the scrutiny of the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) preferred strategy, prior to it being reported to Council on the 26th of October. This report covers the primary strategic sites only. This covers sites in Monmouth, Abergavenny, Caldicot and Chepstow and makes provision for 5400 to 6200 homes over the plan period. In addition, the MOD will also be building 100 new homes for Caerwent. This has allowed a flexibility of 15% additional houses rather than the 10% in the existing LDP. The 100 new houses for the Barracks on the Caldicot East Strategic Site will not be counted in those figures. Other detailed site allocations will be set out at the Deposit RLDP stage.

It is proposed to swap the strategic site in Chepstow from Bayfield to Mouton Road Chepstow for 145 homes. However, this is directly by the High Beech roundabout and all of the traffic congestion in Chepstow objections to the Bayfield site, equally apply to this site and even more so as it is directly next to the roundabout.

In addition, the WeITAG1 Welsh Government study only came up with 2 options for the improvement of High Beech roundabout itself, one within existing land ownership closing Fairview and replacing via a link road to the A466 which could take various forms which would increase traffic through Bulwark which does not have 2-way traffic and so is unworkable. The other option was extra land at the Mounton Road site Chepstow and if this land was taken up by 145 houses, a hotel and care home then there is no land left to make High Beech roundabout improvements to the roundabout itself which is currently well beyond capacity.

The link to the Place Committee meeting can be found here:
<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=303&MIId=555>

Special Cabinet on the 4th of October 2023

This Special Cabinet meeting on the 4th of October will cover the subject of meeting Gypsy, Roma and Travellers Pitch Needs-Land Identification. It will remove the sites in Monmouth and Mitchell Troy and recommend the commencement of a public consultation for the potential provision of up to six Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pitches each:

Bradbury Farm, Crick, Caldicot
Oak Green Farm, Crick, Caldicot
Langley Close, Magor

Two sites have planning permission which reduces the pitches from 13 to 11. Discussions are ongoing with existing Monmouthshire households wishing to meet their own need subject to necessary permissions. These discussions are on-going and there is no material update for this report.

The public consultation on the Gypsy, Roma and Travellers proposed sites is proposed to start on the 18th of October for at least 6 weeks.

The proposed next steps in respect of both site identification and the Replacement Local Development Plan are:

- 4th October – Cabinet decision on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller sites for public consultation for at least 6 weeks. Proposed to start 18th October 2023.
- 26th October Council consideration to endorse the preferred strategy for the RLDP to inform the deposit plan.
- 9th November – Place Scrutiny Committee for consideration of the Economy, Employment and Skills Strategy and voluntary Local Transport Plan

- 13th December – Cabinet approval sought for the Economy, Employment and Skills Strategy and voluntary Local Transport Plan.
- Cabinet decision on which Gypsy, Roma and Traveller sites are to be included in the Deposit RLDP – Date to be confirmed after consultation.
- April/May 2024 – Deposit Plan to Council for endorsement to consult – the Deposit Plan is the full RLDP containing all site allocations and all policies;
- September 2024 – Deposit Plan to Council following consultation for approval to submit to the Welsh Government for public examination in public by an independent inspector;
- Examination in public;
- July 2025 – RLDP to Council for adoption.

The link to the Special Cabinet meeting can be found here:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=144&MIId=5960>

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT November 2023

Special Place Committee on the 23rd of October 2023

The Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Cabinet sites decision was called in and as a result the intended consultation on these sites has been delayed. The Special Place Committee on the 23rd of October decided to refer to the matter to full council on the 26th of October. This has postponed any consultation on the 3 sites at the following locations:

Bradbury Farm, Crick, Caldicot
Oak Green Farm, Crick, Caldicot
Langley Close, Magor

The meeting also went into a private session so that existing private sites could be discussed. The council is looking for a total of 11 pitches based on its Gypsy, Roma and Travellers need assessments.

The link to the Special Place Committee can be found here:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=303&MIId=5969>

County Council on the 26th of October 2023

The County Council meeting considered the Gwent Regional Partnership Board Area Plan, MCC Self-assessment and a long report with appendices on the RLDP Strategic Sites plan. The main change on the RLDP for this area is the change of strategic site from Bayfield to Mounton Road which is even nearer the High Beech roundabout. The proposal is to have a hotel, care home and 145 houses in that location.

Please see the following article in the South Wales Argus on the scrutiny committee where I raised these concerns, but this still went to this full council meeting on the 26th of October regardless.
<https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/23828868.new-chepstow-housing-move-closer-highbeech-roundabout/#>

The following article in the South Wales argus is indicative of the Council's view on this Mounon Road site:
<https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/23870051.new-chepstow-site-monmouthshire-development-plan/>

This change of site will be consulted upon at the Deposit Stage of the plan which is likely to be in Spring 2024 together with the smaller candidate sites.

In addition, there were motions opposing the cutting of the overnight provision of minor injuries at Neville Hall Hospital, on Vaping and opposing the single transferable vote (STV).

Under STV, residents would no longer have one or two councillors to represent them because wards would be amalgamated so residents would elect around six to nine councillors to represent them and would rank candidates in order of preference. It would lose the democratic link between a local area and a local councillor. Local Authorities are free to accept or reject the idea.

There were also a number of questions asked as well as a consideration on the call in of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller sites, the vote on which accepted the Cabinet decision based on a close vote.

The link to the County Council meeting, where it can be watched, can be found here:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=143&MIId=5410>

Cabinet Report of the 8th of November 2023

The Cabinet report of the 8th of November will consider the 5th month budget report showing a budget shortfall and the need for a budget recovery plan. The reports can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=144&MIId=5403>

RLDP Consultations

It is recommended that residents should register on the County Council's RLDP database, so that you will be alerted when that next phase of public consultation starts. You can do that by emailing planningpolicy@monmouthshire.gov.uk

If you know people living in the other Chepstow or surrounding wards, please encourage them to register to the RDLF database so they too will get the notification about the next phase of consultation.

Dates of the next meeting – Monday 4th December 2023 at 7.00pm and can be attended in person at the public meeting in Shirenewton Recreation Hall or remotely via Microsoft Teams (a link will be provided on emailing the Clerk).

Find more information in a draft copy of minutes on the Community Council notice boards. Previous, approved minutes of meetings can be found on the Council's website www.shirenewtoncc.org.uk

**Contact the Clerk to the Community Council
E-mail: shirenewtoncc@gmail.com**

Calling all young local crafters....



Would you be interested in a youth craft fair at Shirenewton Recreational Hall?

A couple of hours selling time on a Saturday or Sunday? The earliest we can set it up would be March 2024 – so it gives you a chance to get your stock made!

It would be a minimal fee of £1 for a table.

A chance for you (our talented under 16-year-olds) to showcase & sell your hand-crafted items.

Email me with details of your craft, your age & your location.

Shirley
ayresandgraces@yahoo.com



Christmas Quiz

Saturday 16th December 2023

Earlswood & Newchurch West
Memorial Hall

Doors open 6.30pm.

A meal of sausage, mash and
peas followed by apple pie &
custard will be served before we
start the quiz.

Tea and coffee will be available
or please feel free to bring your
own drink if you fancy something
stronger.

A prize for the quiz and best
Christmas outfit.

Tickets £10 bookings only
Phone 07889 762840 or
07855 301806

FRIENDS OF ST PETERS



NEWCHURCH

AT NEWCHURCH FARM SHOP

SAT 2ND DEC 7PM

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

PLUS 2 COURSE DINNER £15PP

TO BOOK YOUR MEAL

PHONE SARAH 07850 401869

CHURCH SERVICES ON ZOOM

Some services will be available to join via Zoom, if you cannot attend in person. Please contact Gilly Lambert (see contact list) if you would like to be included on the distribution for Zoom service invitations.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL GRANTS

St Thomas a Becket Church is very grateful to the Community Council for their generous grant support towards cutting the grass in the churchyard and towards the costs of Carols Round The Tree. Thank you.

Graham Lambert
LCC Treasurer

FOR THE REGISTERS

The funeral of Jill Elizabeth Williams took place on Friday 24th November at St Thomas à Becket Church, Shirenewton. The service was conducted by the Reverend Philip Avery.



Contact Rebecca on

07889 762 840

info@greenbeeblooms.co.uk

images of our work can be seen on

www.greenbeeblooms.co.uk

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I also carry a range of handmade Soy Wax Candles

CHRISTMAS AT



ST PETERS CHURCH NEWCHURCH

CAROL SERVICE 6.30PM SUN 17TH

FOLLOWED BY MULLED WINE & MINCE PIES

CAROLS AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

4.00PM SUN 24TH

FOLLOWED BY MULLED WINE & MINCE PIES

CHRISTMAS DAY 10AM EUCHARIST



HAPPY
CHRISTMAS



SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1090167

Our speaker for the evening was Anne Wareham, the title of her talk was 'Y Vedw' ('The Birches'). The area consists of a small valley, with around 40 houses, which has developed over a number of centuries. Anne lives in one of them and has been researching the property for many years. We believe it might have been a settlement for charcoal burners, supplying the metal smelting industry in Tintern.

We will be walking up to Grey Hill again this year on the 27th December to see the sun rising over the standing stones on the Winter Solstice, sunrise 8.10am. This year for the first time we will be rushing back from Grey Hill to have breakfast at the Church Room, everyone welcome, walkers and non-walkers very welcome. If you would like breakfast let me know before 15th December, you will see more information/contact details on a poster in the magazine.

A walk up to Grey Hill will blow away the Christmas cobwebs! Look forward to seeing you on the 27th December.

Dates for your Diary — Please come along, everyone welcome

28 th November	Enclosures Act	Peter Strong
12 th December	St Arvans Church visit	David Priddis
	Supper at The Piercefield	
27 th December	Winter Solstice walk and Community Breakfast	
2024		
30 th January	James Stephens of Chepstow	Guy Hamilton
27 th February	Dinner	TBD
26 th March	Japan & Wales the big Connection	Keith Dunn
30 th April	Mounton House Garden	Helena Garrish
5 th May	Beating the Bounds	
14 th May	An evening guided walk around Beachley	Richard Clammer
25 th June	Roman Houses XXVI & XXVII in Caerwent	Mark Lewis
3 rd July	Visit to Mounton House Garden	Helena Garrish
30 th July	Oliver Cromwell	Prof Hutton



Invites you to join their climb up **Grey Hill**
on 27th December 2023

to watch the sunrise over the standing stones
followed by a **Community Breakfast** in Shirenewton

Join the walk, or just come for breakfast (but please note
that breakfast tickets must be booked by 15th Dec).

*To join the walk; meet at 7.30am outside the Woodland Tavern,
Llanvair Discoed*

Or meet at the standing stones on Grey Hill (sunrise circa 8.10am)

Please dress for the weather and bring a torch



Community Breakfast, all welcome

at 9am on 27th Dec 2023, in the Church Room

Bacon or Sausage butty, toast,
bottomless tea and coffee

Booking is essential.

email brabon66@btinternet.com or call 641376

by 15th December (for booking and to make payment).

Tickets for breakfast are £5 per head. There is no charge for children aged 12 and under, but their breakfasts must still be booked

Special dietary requirements can be accommodated if notified at time of booking

3rd Thursday Men's Curry Night / Last Thursday Ladies Curry Night

The idea behind the 3rd Thursday Men's Curry Night and the Last Thursday Ladies Curry Night is for the men and women of the village to come along (on their respective evening) to the Sultan, eat some curry maybe have a drink or two and get to meet their fellow villagers.

The idea is that these nights will happen every month on the 3rd Thursday (Men's) and last Thursday (Ladies). There is no commitment to regular attendance. People travel, may not feel like it for a particular month, etc. – however, it would be nice to get a quorum once a month.

By the time you read this, the inaugural curry nights will have happened (currently 40+ men and ~25 ladies registered for their respective evenings) and, hopefully, been a good experience. However, I'm sure there will be some lessons we can take on board. The next Men's curry night will be Thursday 21st December. I'll organise a Facebook poll to see if there is demand for a December Ladies night which would be 28th December.

In January the dates will be 18th Jan for the Men and 25th Jan for the Ladies.

In terms of logistics, start time is 7:30pm. The format is a buffet with no allocated seating (we expect people to sit down randomly and chat). There will be a small range of curries which Raj will change every month, so it doesn't get 'samey'. Please pay the £15 buffet fee on arrival (card or cash) and then any drinks you purchase as you purchase them. Due to the numbers (and no designated seating/tables numbers) it won't be possible to keep track of tabs. Shirenewton & Mynyddbach are villages with an extraordinary depth of talent, knowledge and experience. I, for one, have had some really interesting conversations with fellow villagers I've met at various village events. So, please come along and try it out.

To get a handle on numbers, every month I'll publish the next date on the village Facebook group and invite people to confirm attendance. If you don't have Facebook or would prefer to use email, email me via tredegararmspub@gmail.com - an address I own for historical reasons.

David Cornwell

😞 Imagine spending Christmas alone, with no family, no friends, no gifts, no joy. Imagine feeling like you have no one who cares about you, no one who supports you, no one who loves you. This is the reality for many young people leaving care in our area. They face many challenges and difficulties, such as homelessness, unemployment, poverty, mental health issues, and social isolation.

👍 But YOU can make a difference. You can show them that they are not alone. That they are valued and appreciated. That they have a future and a potential. That they have people who care about them.

🦁 We are the Chepstow and Caldicot Lions and we are launching a campaign to provide Christmas gifts for young people leaving care in our area. We want to give them something to smile about, something to hope for, something practical, something to cherish.

👉 We need your help to make this happen. We need your help to raise £1,200 to buy gifts that are suitable for young people aged 18 to 25. You can help us by making a donation here on our Just-Giving page.

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/gifts4careleavers2023>

No matter how big or small, every donation counts. Every donation makes a difference. Every donation brings us closer to our goal.

👉 🙌 🤝 Together, we can make this Christmas a special and memorable one for young people leaving care in our area. Together, we can make them feel loved and supported. Together, we can make a difference. Thank you for your generosity and kindness.
#WeServe #kindnessmatters

2023 Festive Campaign
to provide personal gifts for

Care Leavers

There are 30 young adults in the Chepstow and Caldicot area currently supported by Monmouthshire County Council who will be leaving care facilities and have no family support. This year we are working with MCC to provide each, and every one of them with a festive gift. We're hoping to raise £1200. Please help us.



Shirenewton W.I. The Crafty Pickle Company



Many of us are hunkering down in these short winter days and concentrating on boosting our immune systems. So, our November talk and demonstration by the Crafty Pickle Company, based in Crick, could not have come at a better time.

Madi and Arthur, both experienced nutritionists, came up with their business idea while traveling and eating fermented foods as a healthy and economical food option. They went on to start the Crafty Pickle Company which produces different forms of fermented foods, including Sauerkrauts and Kimchi. All vegan, raw and full of taste, helping to keep our guts healthy.

Not only are their products good for us but they also support reducing food waste. Madi and Arthur are 'food waste haters'. They work with a food waste partner, Fair Share, using supermarket surplus or imperfect foods to produce their pickles and give a percentage of each sale to help address food insecurity in the U.K.

We were treated to a demonstration of how to make Sauerkraut and also had a chance to taste samples of their Krauts and Kimchi. As you can see from the sparsely stocked shelves in the photo, there were many of us who went home with at least one jar after the meeting. Looking for a novel Christmas present? Madi and Arthur also run workshops from their Crick site and Wye Weight in Monmouth. For workshops and to order products, look at their website (thecraftypickle.co.uk) and/ or Facebook page.

Our next meeting will be a Christmas meal at the Woodlanders in Llanvair Discoed on Thursday 7th December. We will start 2024 with a talk by Peter Moon, life as a local estate agent, on Thursday 11th January at 7.15 p.m. at Shirenewton Recreation Hall. If you would like to join us, then please contact Jane Butterworth at janeb247@gmail.com or Diane Ashton Smith (01291 628838)
Jackie Broughton

Gardening Corner

As I sit here writing this, we have just had our first 'proper' frost of the year. This has seen off any of the surviving summer veggies. The tomatoes, peppers and the few French beans we had, have the look of 'enough is enough' and they have given up the will to live any more – which is understandable! So almost everything is out of the freezer from now on. Fortunately, I had picked a good basketful of the 'big mama' tomatoes last weekend. Normally we make these into a rich tomato passata sauce, but we have had so many this year, that we decided no more sauce, let's make some soup instead. So, whilst the Sunday joint was roasting away last week, we placed a large baking tray on the bottom shelf loaded up with the said tomatoes, and just left them to get on with it. Once they were cooked, we tipped them into the Maslin pan, added some salt and pepper, basil and some vegetable stock, then 'blitzed' it all with the little hand-held blender. The result was 8 pots of soup which have now been frozen for future use. I planted calabrese in the large tunnel some days ago and these are getting well established. Hopefully, these will provide early spring vegetables and fill the gap between winter and late spring /early summer varieties start to mature. Some weeks before that, I planted various varieties of cauliflower. Some were meant to mature for late summer and autumn harvesting and some were for winter and spring harvesting. I was a little late getting them in I must admit, although I had sown them on time. They soon took hold though and started growing vigorously in the relatively mild weather. I have been watering them, when necessary, but try to avoid too much wet on the leaves as they have a habit of getting mould and then rotting off. They had started looking good, but I wasn't expecting too much from them because of the lateness in planting. I was a bit surprised then, when I had a closer look last week and discovered a number of dinner plate size cauliflowers already there for cutting. Whether these were the late summer ones, or autumn ones I'll never know! Suffice to say that the first one we cut was absolutely delicious, so these will be a welcome bonus for dinners over the coming weeks. As usual with F1 hybrid seed, they tend to all mature at about the same time, but at least with cauliflowers, they do freeze reasonably well, so none will get wasted.

Gardening outside has currently completely ground to a halt at present, which will be no surprise to you out there! It is just too wet to do anything other than perhaps some of the maintenance jobs such as cutting hedges, or jobs inside the greenhouse or tunnel. I had the best intentions to cut the grass, and clear up all of the fallen leaves at the same time, but that never happened due to the incessant rain. If it does dry up enough, I might just run the mower over the top one day on a high setting, just to clear up some of the leaves if nothing else. We have several large oak trees along our boundary, and the leaves contain a lot of tannin which doesn't do the grass any favours if left for a long time. The worms are also less likely to pull these down into the ground, so

they tend to hang around a lot longer than the leaves of most other species. They do make a valuable compost though if left long enough, or in a mixture with other stuff. One up side of the wet has been the fact that one of our neighbours wasn't able to dump some farmyard manure in a field, so we have benefitted from three trailer loads of sheep poo and straw. I was very excited to receive them!!

Unfortunately, I haven't been very well in recent weeks – the result of being prescribed the wrong glasses. With new lenses, things are settling down now, but I'm now travelling about the countryside, delivering training for work. One downside of fully retiring, sharing knowledge before it is too late! As a result, the large heap of manure on our driveway is now gently steaming away and starting to rot. This isn't a problem for us, and we have no immediate neighbours, so it isn't a problem for them either. It will make it a lot easier to move the heap down to the compost bins at the bottom of the garden though, as the overall volume is reducing fast, so far less wheelbarrow loads to move. It also means that it will be ready to utilise next spring, which will be ideal. I'm sure some of you will be wondering why anyone could get so excited about rotting sheep poo. Sympathetic maybe! It is only because I know what a difference it will make to the crops next year, as they will have the sweetest and fullest flavour going. Can't wait!

Anyway, less of that and back to the action. There are always jobs to do and the hard frost will mean that various flowers will have now had their top growth burnt off. I'm thinking mainly of dahlias and gladioli. As soon as we can now, we will cut off the foliage, dig the tubers or corms up and bring them into the small greenhouse where they will dry off and be protected from the winter weather. We ideally need it a little bit drier as it will mean we can remove most of the soil, making drying easier. The tops will also be added to the compost heaps! We will also be cutting down the chrysanthemums. We now have a lovely selection of different varieties which we need to keep for next year. Again, they will be cut down and dug out but, instead of drying off, the 'mother' plants will be stored in compost in wooden crates for the winter. They will be kept slightly moist, rather than bone dry, and hopefully once things start to warm up again, they will start to shoot out again. These shoots will then be removed, trimmed up, potted up into compost, watered and placed on the warm bench for rooting. These cuttings will make next year's plants.

Vegetable wise, there is work to be done as well. Garlic and shallot bulbs, the best of which have been saved from this year's crop, will be split into individual cloves and then potted up into small pots. These will be watered and stored in the big greenhouse for them to start rooting. This will only take a couple of weeks or so, depending on the weather. Once they have roots coming out of the bottom of the pot, they are then going to be moved into one of the large tunnel beds, where they will grow on to form most of next year's crop. Both garlic and most of the shallot varieties need a period of cold weather to ensure a good for next year. You can

get some varieties that can be planted in the spring, but I have always found the over-wintering ones to perform the best. It also means that you get an earlier crop, which can be removed and then a follow up crop of say late summer cauliflowers or similar, planted up, so gaining a double crop on the same ground rather than just one. The only other job I need to do is sow a few early sweet pea seeds. This should have been done already, but I can bring them into growth by standing on the kitchen window sill, and then moving them to the greenhouse after. They tend to be pretty resilient!

Happy gardening until next month and we hope that you all have a wonderful Christmas, *Steve and Felicity Hunt.*



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SHIRENEWTON VILLAGE CHRISTMAS MARKET



Our Christmas Market was an enormous success – both rooms were buzzing! Thank you to all the community who turned up & supported us – there really was a terrific atmosphere! As usual It was so busy, I didn't have time to take any photos, which was a shame as the room looked so festive & inviting – plus there was a great turnout of Christmas jumpers!

Special thanks to the committee - Beryl, Sarah, Caroline (& me!) for organising the event, setting up the tables, selling raffle tickets, making tea & clearing away & cleaning after the event. Thanks to all the stallholders for their support & to those who helped put away tables & chairs – much appreciated.

The children were also treated to an outdoor craft event – many thanks to Emma Walker for suggesting & running this – a great idea & we were blessed with the weather! Emma's hoping she'll be free to do another session at our next market.

Thanks to Raj at the Sultan for letting us use their car park – a real boom!

Again, our pop-up café came up trumps with delicious coffee & cakes – thanks to Emma & Zack and the girls for all their hard work (& a thank you to your cake making friends for assisting you with the lovely baked treats).

As well as our regular stallholders we had some newbies venturing out to their first market this time, including the PTA – the feedback from them was that they were really impressed by the friendly atmosphere at the hall & would happily return.

We have raised over £150 for LATCH from the raffle & kind donations, with money from the café sales (minus expenses) yet to be added to the total – WOW! – fabulous generosity (as always!)

Thanks again all – we will return in the Spring!

Shirley Ayres





Thank You

TO ALL OUR STALL HOLDERS, HELPERS & CUSTOMERS FOR A GREAT COMMUNITY FEEL AT OUR LOVELY CHRISTMAS MARKET - THE ATMOSPHERE WAS FABULOUS - THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT!



THE LITTLE RED ROBIN

Year 2/3 children from Shirenwton Primary School would like to invite the community to watch their performance at St Deiniol's Church, on Tuesday 19th December at 10am



STARGAZING



In the evening to the southeast, the constellation Orion is a glorious sight – three bright stars make up his belt; two stars are his shoulders, and two more make his legs. Orion was the great hunter of Greek Mythology who boasted that he could kill any creature on earth – but he met his match in the scorpion, which stung him in the heel and killed him. The bright blue-white star in Orion's right leg is Rigel, an extremely powerful star but at great distance, it is at least 60,000 times more luminous than the Sun. The bright star at Orion's left shoulder is Betelgeuse (pronounce it "beetle-juice" and you'll be close enough). Betelgeuse has a reddish colour – it is a vast red super-giant star, large enough to contain the entire path of the Earth round the Sun. Hanging from Orion's belt is his sword. One of the stars in the sword appears fuzzy compared with other stars and is well worth looking at through binoculars. This is the Orion Nebula and is a huge cloud of gas and dust. It is one of the most intense regions of star formation visible in our galaxy.

In the evening sky the bright planet Jupiter lies to the south-east at the start of December; by the end of January, it has moved to the south-west. Saturn is not quite as bright and has a slightly yellow hue. It is in the south-west and low in the sky in December, but disappears below the horizon in January. Jupiter is close to the Moon on 22nd December and 19th January. Saturn is close to the Moon on 17th December.

You may see some shooting stars on 14th and 15th December. These are the Geminid meteor shower. They should appear in the eastern sky later in the evening.

We reach the Winter Solstice on December 22nd. The Sun reaches its lowest point in the heavens as observed in the northern hemisphere. This gives the shortest day and the longest night.





Eileen O' Dwyer



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As we move into the festive period and then the month after the month before (aka January), we need to be extra vigilant over our online purchases. This year I've explained that I purchased a beach trolley which, when delivered, fitted through the letter box as it was reincarnated as a cheap silk scarf. You may recall I got my money back via a charge back on my credit card.

That advert was on social media (Facebook in this case) and recently the TSB Director of Fraud Prevention warned people not to purchase via social media unless there was payment protection in place. TSB has reported that it has seen a 35% spike in online purchase fraud and it's research suggests that Facebook Marketplace accounts for 77% of purchase scams originating on the FB platform.

So, as noted by TSB's Director of Fraud Prevention, that online bargain may not be the bargain you thought as "social media platforms are rife with scam adverts for items that simply don't exist". If that bargain seems too good to be true it almost certainly is!

This moves neatly onto the UK Online Safety Bill which became law (after much chopping and changing) in October. The bill's main objective is to protect children from harmful online material and to make the UK "the safest place in the world to be online".

The gov.uk website says:

The Act places legal responsibility on tech companies to prevent and rapidly remove illegal content, like terrorism and revenge pornography. They will also have to stop children seeing material that is harmful to them such as bullying, content promoting self-harm and eating disorders, and pornography.

It further notes that "If they [the big tech providers] fail to comply with the rules, they will face significant fines that could reach billions of pounds, and if they don't take steps required by Ofcom to protect children, their bosses could even face prison."

The bill attempts to achieve its objectives by imposing more rules and a much higher duty of care on the big tech companies like Meta (Owner of Facebook, Instagram, etc.), Apple and other providers. In short, inter alia, it requires providers to: (i) remove illegal content quickly or prevent it from appearing in the first place; and (ii) put in place age controls to prevent minors from accessing harmful and age-inappropriate material. The bill has created new criminal offences which, as the above text notes, includes jail time for company officers. Needless to say, the bill is not without controversy and the bill has been called "a serious threat to human rights online".

For all the headlines, the bill is simply an 'enabler' and, as I understand it, nothing comes into force until the Government has made secondary legislation to implement the Act, and Ofcom has published relevant codes of practice. It is, of course, the detailed implementation requirements which will determine the bill's success, failure and impact on free speech. Watch this space.

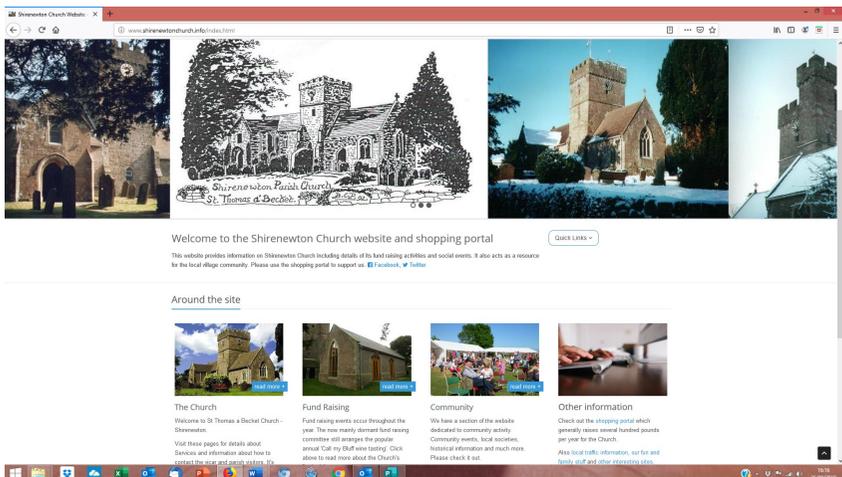
Finally, you may have read that the UK's 2G and 3G networks are going to be switched off by 2033. However, most providers will be switching off 3G next year and 2G by 2030. This will have two main effects.

Firstly, if you have an older mobile phone the internet may no longer work. Vodafone is already switching off 3G, Virgin & O2 expect 3G to be gone by 2025 and Three & EE during 2024 (aka next year). If you have an older phone, the first thing you will notice is lack of internet connectivity as the internet goes via 3G (it can go via 2G but is too slow to be effective) although your calls and texts should still work via 2G.

Secondly, it is estimated that up to 7 million smart meters will be rendered 'dumb' as they will not longer be able to communicate with their base and remotely submit readings. This appears to be the law of unintended consequences. Know one appears to know what to do with these meters.

On that happy note, it only remains for me to wish you a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

David Cornwell





Chepstow Choral Society

Musical Director – Graham Bull



affiliated to Ty Cerdd – Music Centre Wales and Making Music – The National Federation of Music Societies. Registered charity no. 1127098

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Chepstow Choral Society is looking ahead to Saturday March 23rd, 2024, with a performance of Rossini's sparkling "Petite Messe Solennelle", a work that is neither dull, solemn nor "petite", and has wonderful choruses, quartets, and solos. New singing members most welcome (contact Marjorie on 01291 623310) and chepstowchoral@gmail.com or visit our website– www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk .Also follow us on Facebook & Twitter (X). Thank You!! Marje D.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December

Friday 1 st 3.00-7.00 p.m.	Christmas Market St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow
Friday 1 st 7 p.m.,	Christmas concert St Andoenus Church, Mounon
Saturday 2 nd 7.00-9.00 p.m.	Christmas Quiz Newchurch Farm Shop
Sunday 3 rd 11.00 a.m.	Advent Fair Church Room
Sunday 3 rd 1100 a.m.	Crib service St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow
Monday 4 th 7.00 p.m.	Community Council meeting The Recreation Hall
Tuesday 5 th 2.45 p.m.	Bible Study—An Advent Theme 07380 992494 - phone Carol for location
Wednesday 6 th 8.00 p.m.	Advent Reflection and Night Prayer St Arvan's Church
Thursday 7 th 7.30-8.45 p.m.	Prayer Group St Peter's Church, St Pierre
Thursday 7 th 7.00 p.m.	WI Christmas meal The Woodland Tavern, Llanvair Discoed
Saturday 9 th 2.00 p.m.	Christmas tea and chat St Arvan's meeting room
Sunday 10 th 09.30 a.m.	Blessing of the Crib St Christopher's Church, Bulwark
Sunday 10 th 6.30 p.m.	Carols round the Christmas Tree Shirenewton Sultan car park
Tuesday 12 th 2.45 p.m.	Bible Study—an Advent Theme 07380 992494 - phone Carol for location
Tuesday 12 th 7.30 p.m.	Shirenewton Local History Society Visit to St Arvans Church/The Piercefield
Wednesday 13 th 7.00 p.m.	Chepstow Choral Society—Christmas Music Chepstow School Arts Hall
Wednesday 13 th 8.00 p.m.	Advent Reflection and Night Prayer St Arvan's Church

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December continued

Wednesday 13 th 7.30 p.m.	Carol Concert with Chepstow Singing Group St Peter's Church, St Pierre
Thursday 14 th 2.45 p.m.	Prayer Group (07887 853479 for directions) The Cedars, Chapel Lane, Pwllmeyric
Friday 15 th 6.00 p.m.	Carols round the Christmas Tree with Silver Band, St Arvans Churchyard
Saturday 16 th 10.00-12.00 a.m.	Open Church to decorate the tree St Tewdric's Church, Mathern
Saturday 16 th 4.00 p.m.	Carols by Candlelight St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow
Saturday 16 th 6.30 p.m.	Christmas Quiz Earlswood and Newchurch West Mem Hall
Saturday 16 th 7.00 p.m.	St Woolos Christmas Concert St Deiniol's Church Itton
Sunday 17 th 10.00 p.m.	Carol Service St Thomas a Becket Church, Shirenewton
Sunday 17 th 11.00 a.m.	Christingle Service St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow
Sunday 17 th 3.00 p.m.	Carol Service St Peter's Church, St Pierre
Sunday 17 th 3.30 a.m.	Combined crib and carol service St Tewdric's Church, Mathern
Sunday 17 th 6.30 p.m.	Candlelight Carol Service with mince pies St Peter's Church, Newchurch
Tuesday 19 th 10.00 a.m.	The Little Red Robin St Deiniol's Church, Itton
Tuesday 19 th 2.45 p.m.	Bible Study—An Advent Theme 07380 992494 - phone Carol for location
Tuesday 19 th 8.00 p.m.	Advent reflection and prayer St Arvan's Church
Wednesday 20 th 7.00 p.m.	Nine Lessons and Carols by candlelight St Deiniol's Church Itton
Thursday 21 st 7.30p.m.	Men's curry night The Shirenewton Sultan

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December continued

Thursday 21 st 7.30-8.45 p.m.	Prayer group with mince pies The Cedars, Chapel Lane, Pwllmeyric
Friday 22 nd 6.00 p.m.	Nine Lessons and Carols St Arvan's Church
Sunday 24 th 8.00 a.m.	Said Holy Eucharist St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow
Sunday 24 th 9.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer St Tewdric's Church, Mathern
Sunday 24 th 9.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer St Tewdric's Church, Mathern
Sunday 24 th 10.00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist St Arvan's Church
Sunday 24 th 11.30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist St Peter's Church, St Pierre
Sunday 24 th 2.00 p.m.	Christmas carols St Christopher's Church, Bulwark
Sunday 24 th 4.00 p.m.	Carols round the Christmas tree St Peter's Church, Newchurch
Sunday 24 th 4.00 p.m.	Carols by candlelight Penyaemawr Methodist Chapel
Sunday 24 th 4.30-5.30 p.m.	Walking Christingle St Thomas à Becket Church, Shirenewton
Sunday 24 th 4.30 p.m.	Carols by candlelight (ticket only) St Mary's Church, Penterry
Sunday 24 th 9 p.m.	Christmas Eve service St Andoenus Church, Mounton
Sunday 24 th 11.00 p.m.	Midnight Mass St Arvan's Church
Sunday 24 th 11.30 p.m.	Midnight Mass St Thomas à Becket Church, Shirenewton
Monday 25 th 09.00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist with Carols St James' Church, Devauden
Monday 25 th 09.00 a.m.	Christmas Eucharist St Tewdric's Church, Mathern

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December continued

Monday 25 th 10 a.m.	Christmas morning family service St Thomas à Becket Church, Shirenewton
Monday 25 th 10 a.m.	Christmas morning family Eucharist St Arvan's Church
Monday 25 th 10 a.m.	Holy Communion St Christopher's Church, Bulwark
Monday 25 th 10 a.m.	Holy Eucharist St Peter's Church, Newchurch
Monday 25 th 10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow
Monday 25 th 11.30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist St Deiniol's Church, Itton
Wednesday 27 th 7.30/9.00 a.m.	Walk up Gray Hill and Community breakfast Woodland Tavern/Church Room
Thursday 28 th 7.30 p.m.	Ladies curry night Shirenewton Sultan
Sunday 31 st 10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion St Christopher's Church, Bulwark
Sunday 31 st 10.00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist St Arvan's Church

January

Thursday 11 th 7.15 p.m.	WI meeting—Peter Moon Recreation Hall
Thursday 18 th 7.30 p.m.	Men's curry lunch Shirenewton Sultan
Thursday 25 th 7.30 p.m.	Ladies curry lunch Shirenewton Sultan
Tuesday 30 th 7.30 p.m.	James Stephens of Chepstow by G Hamilton Shirenewton History Society—Church Hall

Please let the editor know if you are arranging any events which you would like to see advertised here

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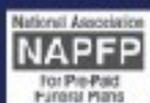
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LOCAL CONTACTS

*If you know of any changes or omissions please contact the Editor Bill Clark
Telephone 01291 641783 or email parishmagshirenewton@gmail.com*

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– People's	Andrew Baker	01291 641 925
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LCC Members	Janet Horton	01291 641 783
	James Leney	01291 641 271
	Wendy Montague	01291 329 481
	John Burrows	01291 641 845
Organists	Karen Millar	01291 650 521
	James Leney	01291 641 271
Tower Captain	Mike Penney	01291 650 653
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Safeguarding Officer	Andrew Baker	01291 641 925
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Church of St Tewdric's Mathern

Secretary	Jen Marendaz	01291 329 422
Church Warden	Elsbeth Morlan	01291 627 538

Ministry Area Council Representative

Wendy Montague	01291 329 481
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MP/Monmouth CC & Community Council Representatives

Shirenewton Community Council Clerk

shirenewtoncc@gmail.com

Shirenewton and Mynyddbach Ward:

Chair	Philip Butterworth 01291 641704	philip.b@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
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	Keith M Dunn OBE 01291 641152	keith.d@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
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Peter Fox MS 01291 674898	Peter.Fox@senedd.wales
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Police and Neighbourhood Watch Contacts

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Neighbourhood CSO Andrew Jones Andrew.jones@gwent.pnn.police.uk

Other Local Organisations

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Church Fete

Earlswood Hope Mr Raymond Jeremiah 01291 641726

Earlswood & Newchurch West Memorial Hall

Chairman Becca Allen 07889762840 chair@earlnew.com

Treasurer Geoff Todd 07855301806 treasurer@earlnew.com

Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel

Avril Smith 01291 627677

Gaerllwyd Baptist Mrs E Remnant Brooklands, Usk Road NP16 6SA

Ranger Guides Helen Cann 01291 6628534 cannhelen@gmail.com

Recreation Association Beverly Lyndsay 07798 780971 beverlylindsay@btinternet.com

Recreation Hall booking Beryl Saysell 01291 641637 saysellberyl@gmail.com

St Peters Church Newchurch

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(previously SAMFAL) 01600 740600

Caerwent Group Mothers Union

Treasurer Rosemary Carey 01291 425010 crcandkili@tiscali.co.uk

Bridget Evans 01291 408125 bridget.caldicot@gmail.com

Shirenewton Operatic and Dramatic Society (SODS)

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Shirenewton Toddler Group Sarah Parker 07971 783434

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Fairtrade Marion McAdam 01291 641316 msm316@gmail.com

Womens Institute (WI)

Diane Ashton Smith (President) 01291 628838

Jane Butterworth (Secretary) 01291 641704.

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